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FOR ACTION

RECOMMENDATION TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Regional support for programme preparation, promotion and evaluation

The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve regional support for programme preparation, promotion and evaluation for the period 1992-1993 in the amount of $18,475,000 from general resources, subject to the availability of funds.

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Introduction

1. Since its establishment in 1962, the interregional fund for programme preparation has evolved to encompass other functions. It was first established to work with government ministries in: (a) the preparatory work leading to the formulation of national policies; (b) the preparation of programmes for strengthening services benefiting children; and (c) the assessment of current activities, as well as the exchange of experience between regions and different countries. It has also enabled country programme preparations to proceed where support for them was not available from country programme funds.

2. In 1985, the fund was renamed "the interregional fund for programme preparation, promotion and evaluation" (IFPPE) to reflect the expansion of support to encompass programme evaluation, as approved by the Executive Board in 1984, and programme promotion, as approved by the Board in 1985, in addition to other programme preparation activities that were carried out previously.

3. As programmes have evolved, the nature of programme preparation needs also have changed. Since country programmes can now absorb most funding requirements associated with programme preparation because of increased funding, country offices now prefer the support of knowledge advisory services in dealing with different partners during programme development and for backstopping during implementation. In recent years, regional advisory services have also performed monitoring functions to support the offices in the region.

4. In previous years, regional support for programme preparation, promotion and evaluation was included in the global submission of IFPPE. The Executive Board approved regional support in the amount of $11.2 million for the 1990-1991 biennium out of a global allocation of $30 million for IFPPE.

5. Owing to its special needs, regional support for programme preparation, promotion and evaluation has been prepared as a separate proposal for approval. It is proposed that each region be allocated $400,000 a year for programme operations, in addition to costs incurred by different advisory services unique to each region. The latter needs vary from region to region according to the availability of other resources and the unique programme orientation in each region.

6. The amount proposed for each region is shown below:

Estimated expenditure

(In thousands of United States dollars)

Region	Advisory support 1992	Advisory support 1993	Subtotal	Operational support	Total
West and Central Africa	1 006	1 049	2 055	800	2 855
Eastern and Southern Africa	1 082	1 135	2 217	800	3 017
Americas and the Caribbean	1 033	1 092	2 125	800	2 925
East Asia and the Pacific	962	1 008	1 970	800	2 770
South Asia	552	578	1 130	800	1 930
Middle East and North Africa	572	606	1 178	800	1 978
TOTAL					15 475
Support for initiating programme activities in higher-income countries					3 000
GRAND TOTAL					18 475

Common support functions

7. In view of the goals for children and development in the 1990s adopted by the Executive Board, which were also endorsed by the World Summit for Children, and the need to monitor the progress towards these goals, all regional offices will have a unique role in monitoring progress in their regions and also in helping to develop monitoring mechanisms in the countries in the region.

8. In both the interrelated goals, as well as the support/sectoral goals, health remains a predominant area of activity on behalf of children and development in the 1990s. Thus, all regional offices will be provided with advisory services on primary health care (PHC) that will be broadly responsible for maintaining an overview of the health situation of children and women in the region and closely studying trends, while providing or arranging to provide support to the countries. Each region will also have advisory services in basic education, funded, however, through the basic education reserve (international and regional support) as approved by the Executive Board at its 1990 session (decision 1990/23, E/ICEF/1990/13).

9. Another unique area of activity in the 1990s will be social mobilization, with a prominent role being played by programme communication and information. Social mobilization on a nation-wide scale is crucial if the goals for the 1990s are to be achieved. Moreover, communication will play an increasing role not only in mobilization, but also in empowering people with knowledge so that they can live better lives.

10. Therefore, all regional offices will have advisory services in monitoring, PHC and communication/information/social mobilization supported through this reserve.

Africa

11. Still deeply impacted by serious economic crises, Africa will benefit from expertise in economic analysis to help monitor changes in the socio-economic situation of populations and the status of countries, especially as they affect children. This will also allow for the development of debt relief programmes and cost-effective options, wherever possible. The West and Central Africa Regional Office will provide for additional advisory services in the areas of community development, electronic data processing and supply, while the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office will facilitate advisory services on women in development, household food security and planning. In order to carry out these tasks, it is proposed that the two regions in Africa be allocated a total of $5,872,000 for 1992-1993.

Americas and the Caribbean

12. The Americas and the Caribbean, which is a relatively better-off region, faces an economic crisis and problems associated with rapid urbanization, both of which have contributed to an increase in the number of children in especially difficult circumstances. Through the support of this proposal, the regional office will provide advisory services in planning and evaluation, nutrition, urban basic services, children in especially difficult circumstances and communications. An allocation of $2,925,000 is proposed for the Americas and the Caribbean Regional Office for 1992-1993.

Asia

13. In view of the rapidly changing socio-economic situation in Asia, advocacy and dialogue with development partners, especially in better-off and newly industrializing countries, will become an evident need in the coming years. To meet this need, the two regional offices will have senior external relations officers and senior urban advisers. The East Asia and Pacific Regional Office will also provide advisory services in communication and information and supply and procurement, while the new South Asia Regional Office will have a senior adviser and an economist to provide support on programme policy development. This region serves to illustrate how the needs of each region differ and how country offices have varying levels of resources available, and thus, need varying levels of support from the regional office. It is proposed that an allocation of $4,700,000 be made to the two regional offices in Asia for 1992-1993.

Middle East and North Africa

14. In this region of predominantly higher-income countries, the advocacy role of UNICEF is more pre-eminent. Thus, the regional office will emphasize monitoring and evaluation, especially monitoring of the progress towards

the goals for the 1990s, and will provide advisory services in child survival and development and data processing. It is proposed that an allocation of $1,978,000 be made to the Middle East and North Africa Regional Office for 1992-1993.

Programming for initiating activities in higher-income countries

15. In higher-income countries, UNICEF does not provide conventional programme assistance, but only limited support to stimulate initiatives and innovative interactions in favour of children and women. It is proposed that $3 million be allocated for this purpose in the 1992-1993 biennium.